

Bahubali Swami
Badami Caves, Karnataka, India
Carved during late 7th century

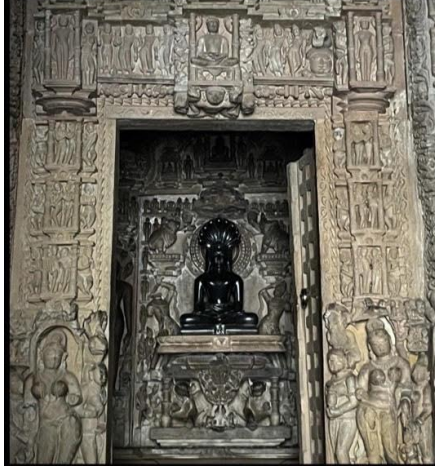


Preface

India is a land of Heritage and in this book we are providing the details of Khajuraho Jain temple of Madhyapradesh which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Approx 1100 years ago such great architecture was built during the rule of Chandel Dynasty on the land of India without using any modern technology which is still attracting visitors from all over the world. In this short and handy book we have provided all important details which will be useful for any history and heritage lover.

You can visit our website www.incrediblejainism.com to explore more and connect with us.



KHAJURAHO

DIGAMBAR JAIN TEMPLES

UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE
MADHYA PRADESH

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About Incredible Jainism

When we talk about history, it's not only limited to political or world affairs. It includes our religious history too which is unfortunately not important to many of us. **Our religious history is as important as the history of our nation.** History is a clue to our past which shapes the identity of us. What we see in our society in terms of rituals, culture & beliefs ultimately come from our religious literacy.

Religious heritage is a symbol of our pride which tells the stories of our glorious past. We travel in past era with the help of such rich legacy.

***INCREDIBLE JAINISM** is an effort towards create awareness about history of Jainism & its heritage. We founded this in 2021 to spread awareness about History and Heritage and people showed their immense love and support which encouraged us to write our experiences to reach global audience.*

We have seen and noticed that many of our ancient temples are in extremely bad condition across the nation. Our youth is unaware about history of Jain religion and it leads to negligence towards Jain heritage. Like we see that our parents teach us the family values and we carry it from generation to generations, in the same manner we need to teach our kids & society the importance of history & heritage of Jainism, else it will die soon or fabricated. Hope our efforts will reach to you and you will also try to spread awareness with us.

Jai Jinendra!

In 1986, Khajuraho Jain temples were included in the list of UNESCO

World Heritage Sites. We all know every year many foreigners visit this place for its outstanding architecture however history associated with this place tells us the glorious history of Jainism too and the ruling kings of India at that time. In most of the cases we appreciate only architecture and do not take interest to know more about who built such great masterpiece which is still attracting visitors from all over the world. Today we will try to understand few key points of Jain temples of Khajuraho which will be useful for all history and heritage lovers.

SHRI PARSHVANATH TEMPLE

Approx 1100 years ago, **Paahil** who was a Jain devotee constructed these temples. The region which we call **Bundelkhand** was earlier known as **Chedi Desh** and between 9th to 13th century it was ruled by the **Kings of Chandel dynasty** for approx 500 years. Their capital was first established in Khajuraho. Here total 84 temples were constructed between 9th to 13th century, out of which only 34 temples remain today. These temples through their grandeur, even today seem to sing the glory of their builders and Jainism.

It is an interesting fact that during the rule of **Chandela King Dhangadeva**, Paahil constructed the temple dedicated to Tirthankar Adinath. An inscription was also discovered from the entrance gate of the temple mentioning the Vikram Samvat 1011 (954 A.D) where **he requested future generation to safeguard the temple**. This temple was dedicated to Tirthankara Adinath but the idol of Tirthankar Adinath got damaged and it was replaced by the new idol of Tirthankara Parshvanath. So now this temple is known as Shri Parshvanath temple which is under the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).

An another inscription from the damaged idol of third Tirthankara Shri Sambhavnath Swami, it was discovered that **Pahil's father name** was Dedu and faith that Pahil had towards Jina Dharma and *Jianyatanas* (Jain temple or Jinalaya) remained the same for hundred of years in their family. Even the

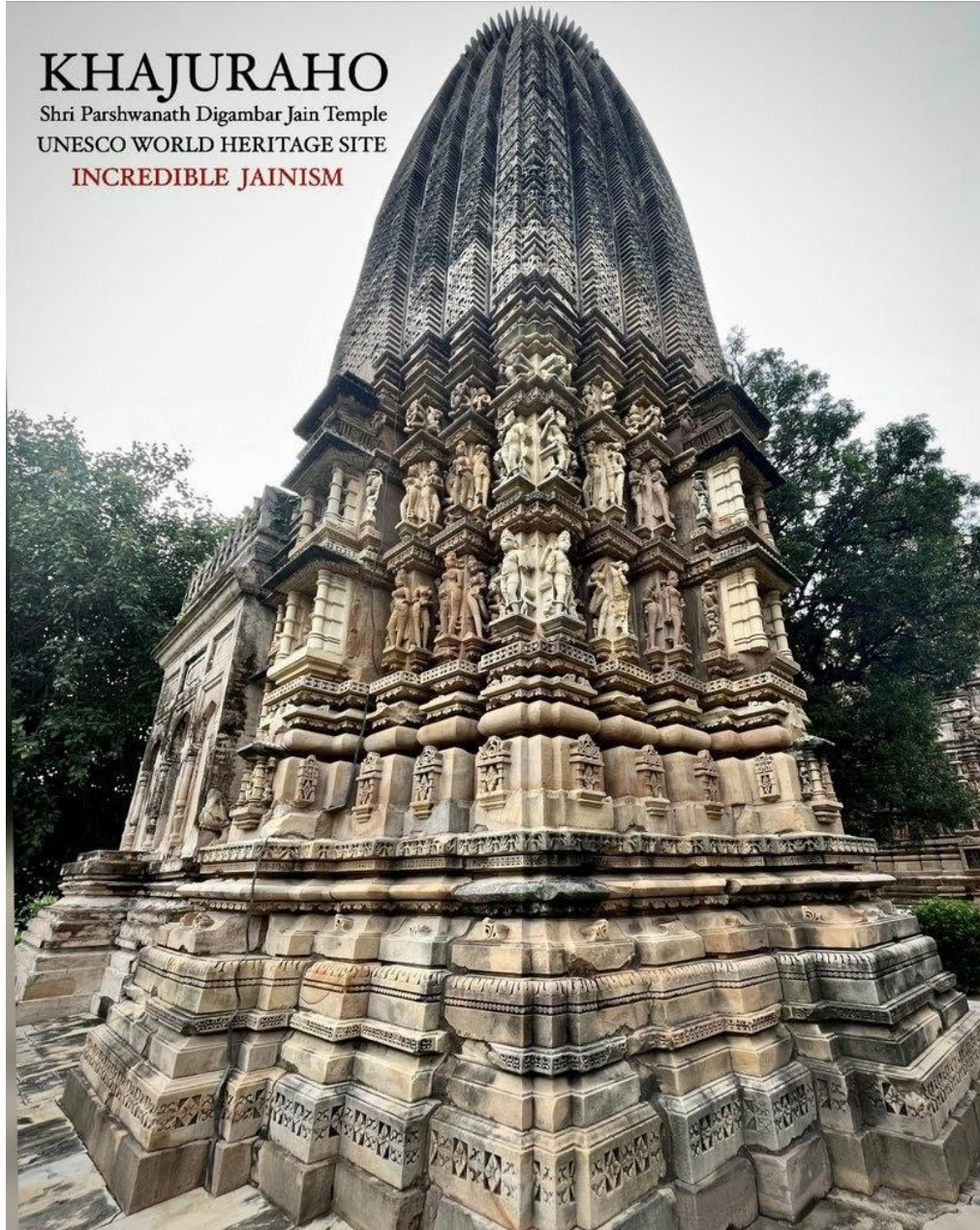
name of **teacher of Pahil** is also inscribed and his name was **Srivasavchandra who was well known, long lived Digambar Jain Acharya. He lived till Samvat 1066 and had also composed many texts.** In those days the followers of Jainism in Khajuraho were not only more in numbers but they also had status and respect no less than anyone else with the good relationship with Kings or rulers. The name of craftsmen are also mentioned here and there in the temple in which many names like, Jaisingh, Mahul, Dev Sharma, Golal etc are read.

The secret of the eternal beauty of this temple, which captivates the mind, even when seen from the distance, lies in the image of its lofty peak. This 68 feet long and 35 feet wide temple is built in **Nagara style**. The peak (Shikhar) of the temple imagined on the basis of Meru, starts from the top of the roof and as it moves up, its circumference gets narrower, which in others remains only the base of the wheel or *chakra*. There is no electricity in this temple and when we visited, we saw there were many bats inside the temple. If ASI can install a lattice door at the main entrance of the temple, then we can rid of this problem to maintain the sanctity of this heritage

KHAJURAHO

Shri Parshwanath Digambar Jain Temple
UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE

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Notes



This huge temple has a 12 feet high idol of Tirthankara Shri Shantinath Swami with an inscription mentioned on the pedestal dated as Vikram Samvat 1085. **Sir Alexander Cunningham** had seen the inscription on the pedestal of this idol in 1852 during his first visit to Khajuraho but in 1884 he read the following terminology on the pedestal:

"Samvat 1085, Srimat Achrayaputra, Sri Thakur, Sri Devdharsut, Sri Sri Sri Chandradeva, made an idol of Sri Shantinatha"

(Survey Report, Volume 21, Page 61)

At present, there are splashes of lime cement on the inscription, due to which its clarity has been hampered. **The tallest idol currently available in Khajuraho** is that of sixteenth Tirthankara Shri Shantinath Swami. In the middle of the throne Dharmachakra and symbol of Tirthankar Shantinath, deer are depicted. Almost all the temples of Khajuraho are built facing east but the face of this temple is towards west. There are approx 18 altars and **recently ASI issued an notification to take control of this temple**. At present *abhishek, puja*n is done regularly here by Digambar Jain community. There are many such important artefacts here, which are not seen anywhere else in Khajuraho.

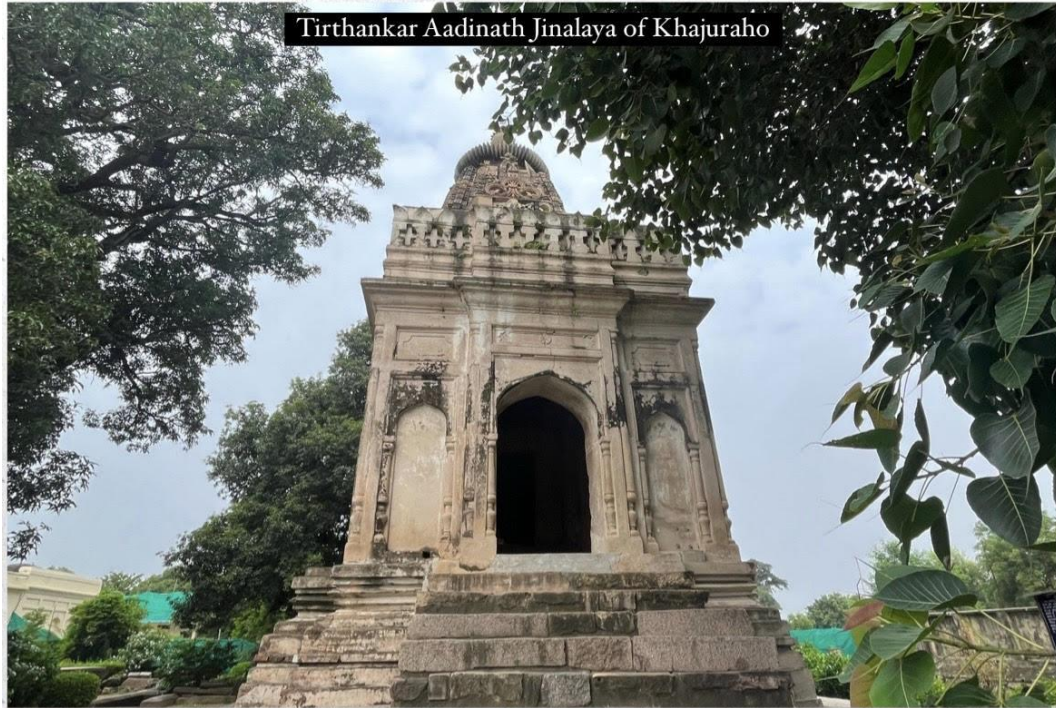


There is a very beautiful artefact in this temple which is marked as parents of Tirthankara. Although as per the iconography this artifact belongs to Yaksha Yakshi of Tirthankara, the protective deity. In other parts of India the same style has been recognised as the guarding

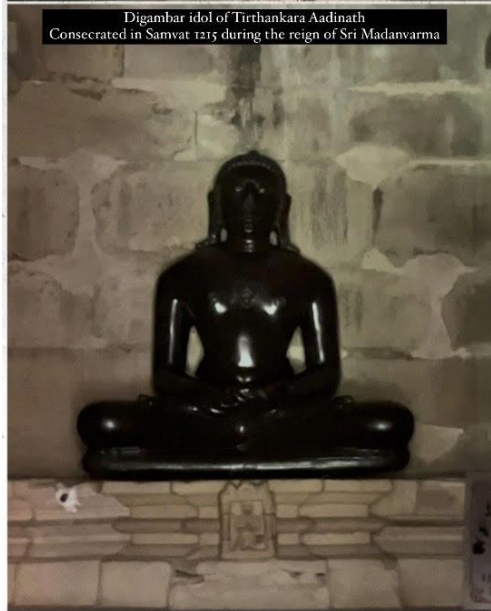
deity of Tirthankara. Here couple is sitting engrossed in a graceful posture with some dignified divine aura on their faces. Male and female both figured has quince in their hands and the goddess has small child in one hand. Behind their seat is the *Kalpavriksha* on which the image of the revered Tirthankara seated on a throne has been depicted. Once seen, the immense beauty of this charming couple statue does not go away from the eyes. Such a beautiful combination of shape, type and beauty is rarely seen anywhere else.

SHRI ADINATH TEMPLE

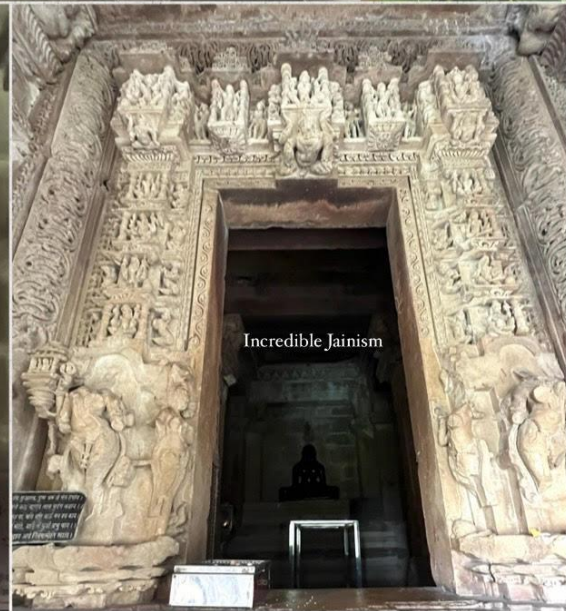
In this temple, the black stone idol of Tirthankar Shri Adinath, dated 1215 is placed. An inscription on the idol mentions the consecration of this idol was done during the reign of **Shri Madanvarma** by the person namely *Salhe*, on **Maghsudi 5 of Samvat 1215**. Situated next to the Parshvanath temple, this temple is slightly smaller in size and is believed to have been built about a hundred years later. **It is also under ASI** but it is well maintained with proper cleaning. Jain devotees are allowed here for worship and puja. This temple holds a special place among the contemporary temples due to its **Nagar style of the late medieval period**. The pavilion in front of this temple situated on a high base had been destroyed due to age, which was later made of brick and lime. The *pradakshina* path is not within it and the *garbhagriha* is simple. The entrance gate of this temple is in perfect condition with all its decorative sculpture splendour and attractive carvings of goddess and yakshini



Tirthankar Aadinath Jinalaya of Khajuraho



Digambar idol of Tirthankara Aadinath
Consecrated in Samvat 1215 during the reign of Sri Madanvarma



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Sixteen Dreams of mother of a Tirthankara

According to Jain Puranas, before the birth of a Tirthankara, his mother saw sixteen dreams. On the basis of these dreams it is sure that she is going to have the honour of becoming the mother of Tirthankara. In ancient times, there was a tradition of inscribing these sixteen dreams on the gateway of the temple. These have been listed in sequence in the Jain Agamas.

Approx twelve gateways are found in Khajuraho and beautiful carvings of sixteen dreams are found in all of them. These *Toran Dwaar* (arches) are visible here and there in the Jain temples of Khajuraho. As per experts, **the most beautiful carving of the sixteen dreams has been done on the entrance of Shri Adinath temple.**

Here the dream is described in full detail with great clarity. When we visited Khajuraho in August 2023, I was not aware by this fact so could not take the picture. However the same illustrative toran I noticed in the Jain art museum so here is attaching the picture of the same. Here two defaced and damaged idols of Tirthankaras are placed in standing posture and above this a panel is visible where sixteen dreams of mother of a Tirthankara are beautifully carved.



SHAHU SHANTIPRASAD JAIN ART MUSEUM

This Jain art museum is situated on the left side near the entrance of the Jain temple group. It was inaugurated on 23rd August 1987. More than a hundred, damaged and partially damaged idols and artefacts from 10th to 13th century A.D. obtained from the Khajuraho region have been displayed in the museum, which one can explore with the ticket price of Rs.10 per person. Many precious and rarest Jain sculptures have also been taken from here to the local government museum.

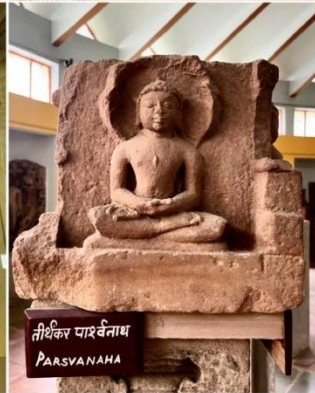
Inside the museum there are artefacts of Kshetrapaal, yakshi, yaksh, broken idols of Tirthankaras, **Bahubali Swami** along with statue of **Bhattaraka Nayanandi**. In one sculpture two Jain acharyas are sitting facing each other with scriptures in their hand which looks like they are doing tattva charcha. Next to this is the head part of a male figure which is identified as Pahil, the builder of Shri Parshwanath temple. Our readers can have a glimpse of this museum with this attached picture as to upload all pictures here is not possible.

GHANTAI TEMPLE

This temple is lying in complete ruins, outside the walls of the Jain group complex. Only the pillars of Mahamadapam and entrance gate remain and the rest of the material, the peak, the roofs and walls all have been destroyed. **Mr Cunningham, the father of Indian archeology** collected about twenty Jain statues from here. All these statues are kept in the Government museum of Khajuraho.

This temple was dedicated to Tirthankar Adinath, It is a fact that in Khajuraho, most of the temples were dedicated to Tirthankar Adinath. Historians believe that Ghantai temple must have been relatively more beautiful and due to carvings of small bells hanging in chain on the

pillars, this temple got the name Ghantai temple. Due to shortage of timing, I could not visit this site but for our readers providing this information so that they can visit Khajuraho with basic knowledge and not to forget experience this site too. I will also surely visit Khajuraho again to explore Gahntai temple.





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And now, this is one of the most beautiful idol in Khajuraho which is of Tirthankara Parshvanath. Above the throne, this idol is presented with seven hooded snakes in Padmasana posture. This idol is placed on the right side of the Shantinath temple with a great beauty. It is also a notable point that idols of Tirthankar Adinath were carved in abundance in Khajuraho. In a survey it was discovered out of 280 idols of Tirthankara, 105 were found to be of Adinath. From this survey it is clear, that first Tirthankara Adinath or Rishabhdev was the presiding deity of the Jain group of Khajuraho. Although there are 34 Jain temples in total but **three major temples are noteworthy** as all other temples are small in comparison. So in this blog, we provided details of **Shri Parshvanath, Shantinath and Adinath temple**. Rest of the temples is also beautiful but idols and artefacts are more attractive and this can be experience only when we personally visit.

Our pilgrimage is our life. It is the heritage of our ancestors and it sing the glory of our past. Today not only Jains even our non Jain brothers and sisters visit our heritage. Now this tirth is known as '**Swarnodaya Tirthkshetra**.' A committee, **Swarnodaya Nyas Trust** has been formed here to preserve the history for future. After the Chaturmas of the **Digambar Acharya Shri Vidhya sagar Ji**, few new constructions are also going on here so that coming generation can witness ancient and modern architecture at one place.

At the end, requesting to our readers, please share the history of your temples and heritage as much as possible. Spread the awareness. People with wrong intentions are actively trying to encroach Digambar Jain heritages. On the basis of money power they write history as per their mindset. We should be thankful to all such historians who valued the heritage and history associated with this and preserved it through records. They wrote books and mentioned each and every aspect. All the details are easily available in government records and we should explore it. We will post other beautiful pictures of Khajuraho on our instagram page, which we could not upload here.

Till the next time Jai Jinendra!!!
Save Heritage Save History.

Incredible Jainism.





सुरक्षित स्मारक

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SHREEMATI





Rules for Entering the Temples

- * Please Remove Shoes & Socks before entering the temples/ Campus.**
- * Bags, Belt, Purse & any other products of leather are prohibited inside the Temple.**
- * Chewing of Tobacco & other eatables (Water, Cold drinks & Biscuits) are prohibited inside the Temples.**
- * Womens in menstruation/ periods are prohibited to enter the temple/campos.**
- * Wash your hand & foot before entering the temple.**

**Shree Digambar Jain Atishay Kshetra
Swarnoday Teerth Nayas Khajuraho**

**Khajuraho Teerth Kshetra Committee
Welcomes All The Visitors. You Are
Entering To The Most Sacred Place To Get
The Blessings Of Lord Shantinath As A
Mark Of Respect Please Take Off Your
Shoes And Socks**

**Thanks You By Order
Administration**